

REMARKS

Applicants first wish to thank Examiner Ewald for the allowance of claims 1-14. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance for the following reasons.

The Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance indicates that the means for transferring the plurality of metal die units one by one have been interpreted as the structural components and equivalents thereof as indicated in the specification, at pages 18-19, as a first cylinder 15 and a second conveyor belt, wherein the die unit is transferred from the second conveyor belt by the first cylinder to the mounting base to which are fixed the pressurized cylinders and the coils (page 13).

Independent claim 1 recites a permanent magnet molding apparatus comprising: a mounting base; a plurality of transferable metal die units that are transferable onto and off said mounting base, each metal die unit including: a die having a cavity of a desired cross-sectional shape in which magnet molding material powder is prefillable before being transferred to the mounting base, the cavity extending in groovelike form in a specific direction on a surface of the die; a lid member placed against a facing surface of said die as if covering said cavity; and a

pair of punches having the same cross-sectional shape as said cavity, said punches being positioned to fit in said cavity such that said punches close said cavity at both ends thereof, and said punches being made slidable in directions in which said punches go into contact with and become separated from the magnet molding material powder; means for transferring the plurality of metal die units one by one onto and off said mounting base; pressurizing means for holding the plurality of metal die units one by one, which have been transferred to said mounting base, with said magnet molding material powder prefilled in said cavity and for pressurizing said magnet molding material powder by driving said two punches such that said two punches slide in their approaching directions; and magnetic field generating means for magnetizing the magnet molding material powder pressurized in said cavity while applying a magnetic field thereto in a direction perpendicular to a direction of pressurization.

Further, the means for transferring the plurality of metal die units one by one onto and off the said mounting base should at least be interpreted as including the structural components and equivalents thereof as indicated in the specification, at pages 15-16, as a first cylinder 15 and a second cylinder 16, wherein the die unit is

transferred by the first cylinder to the mounting base to which are fixed the pressurized cylinder 17, 18 and the coils 21, 22, and the die unit is transferred by the second cylinder from the mounting base.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to place a statement on the record indicating that the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the October 31, 2007 Notice of Allowability should not be interpreted as narrowing the scope of independent claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: January 29, 2008

By: 

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47260

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620